

Marginal Column

By S. ROBERT

IN the diplomatic struggle now in progress in the Middle East a key position is held by Syria. This is not only because of the country's geographical situation stretching right along the southern flank of Turkey from the mountains of Kurdistan near the Russian border to the Mediterranean, but also because of the central position Syria occupies in Arab politics. In the political mythology of the Arabs, Damascus, a beautiful city said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, has a special place of honour as the capital of the first empire and a traditional centre of Arab culture and learning. Although Cairo and Baghdad are now the chief rival centres of power in the Arab States, Syria has been strengthened by the fact that Syria, freed from French rule during the last war, has no foreign alliances and has clung obstinately to complete political independence to the point of forgoing foreign economic aid.

CONVERSELY, all the political cross-currents of the Arab world make themselves felt in Syria. The Arab-Israeli conflict, the rivalry between different Arab States, and the broader struggle between the Western Powers and the Middle East. This has increased political instability in Syria itself, which in turn, since Syria has become a major respecter of the Arab policy, has been one of the chief obstacles to the solution of Middle East problems. Of the four Arab States bordering on Israel—Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan—Syria has been the most rigidly opposed to any move towards an Arab-Jewish peace settlement. Syrian sentiment being strong on this point. For instance, the latest negotiations over the Johnston blockade were, it is believed, blocked when very close to success by the opposition of Syria. The revised version of the plan was long in the air, but it is understood that Jordan, which would be the chief beneficiary through the irrigated development of the Golan Heights, is in favour of accepting the plan, and that Egypt and the Lebanon would not have opposed. But Syria objects. This may have been partly to bargain for an increase in her own share of the scheme's benefits, but more likely due to political reasons—objection to any scheme which might help even indirectly the economic and political consolidation of Israel within her present frontiers.

THE communists are estimated to number about 10,000 to 15,000, but active in propaganda and led by an able and intelligent man named Khaled Bagdash. Officially, the Party here in 1947 has not been lifted, and Khaled Bagdash, the only Communist member of the "National Front" candidates, but the Party is now openly tolerated. Bagdash is a good speaker and is respected even by his opponents as a man of principle and sincerity. His Kurdish origin may also have brought him some support from the Kurdish colony in Damascus.

LEFT-wing influence in Syria has been increasing in the past year partly as a result of intensified Russian propaganda. The Soviet bloc put on an impressive show at the Damascus international trade fair this year and has greatly strengthened its diplomatic missions here. An increasing number of Syrians, parliamentarians, traders, unionists, businessmen, journalists, students and other groups, have been taken on visits to Russia, and the satellite States, have been made much more aware of poverty and privilege. Nevertheless, the most potent element in this radical ferment is still the nationalist, one and especially anti-Western and anti-Israeli feeling. That is why the Czechoslovak arms deal with Egypt, which is seen here as Communist support for the Arabs against Israel, has given a strong impulse to pro-Soviet sympathies and to the influence of the winning nationalist propaganda. Syria's geographical and political situation makes it potentially the most rewarding target for Russia's new Middle East diplomacy, and the Western Powers will have to pay more strict attention than hitherto if they wish to check the present trend against them here.

Damascus, November 12

Quiet in Brazil After 'Coup To Prevent Coup'

RIO DE JANEIRO, Saturday (Reuters).—Carlos Luz, deposed as acting President of Brazil in a lightning 'coup to prevent a coup' yesterday, headed back to the capital today aboard the cruiser on which he fled as opposition forces occupied Rio de Janeiro and installed ex-President of the Senate Nereu Ramoza in his place.

Luz received assurances that his safety will not be endangered, and notified his successor that he was returning to avoid creating a situation in which the blood of Brazilians might be spilled and the armed forces led to fight among themselves. The cruiser sailed out of Rio Bay yesterday after trading a few shots with the shore battery on fashionable Copacabana beach—the only shooting of the 4-hour coup.

A threat of armed conflict between the Army, Navy and Air Force was 'extinguished' last night after Parliament approved the coup staged by the army to replace Mr. Luz, and the new President today replaced Mr. Luz in office. The President-elect, installed on January 31, the leader of the coup, Gen. Teodoro Lott, has resumed his post as War Minister.

Rift Seen Within Argentine Gov't

BUENOS AIRES, Saturday (Reuters).—President Juan Domingo Peron, who called on the Argentine nation today for unity and forbearance, said that he would resist any move to depose him, but that he was not an innocent man suffering undeserved persecution.

The first indication of a rift in the seven-week-old Government came when the resignations of Peron's three Ministers of the Interior, Justice, and Education, were accepted yesterday. The President will leave for his family farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he may report for a brief spell of work as early as next Tuesday. The President will leave for his family farm near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he may report for a brief spell of work as early as next Tuesday.

Eisenhower Back in Washington

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—President Eisenhower, looking fit and happy, returned here yesterday from a tremendous welcome from a crowd of thousands who packed the streets.

The White House announced that the President will open a temporary office in downtown Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he may report for a brief spell of work as early as next Tuesday.

Big Four Bogged Down On All Main Issues

GENEVA, Saturday (Reuters).—The Big Four Foreign Ministers were tonight deadlocked on every issue before them—German reunification, European security, disarmament and improving East-West contacts.

The famed 'Geneva spirit' was almost gone dead after the Ministers failed to reach agreement today on disarmament or even on lines of future negotiations in the U.N. Disarmament Sub-Committee.

With only three more days before the Conference ends on Wednesday night, there seemed little hope of any agreement. The Western Ministers are expected to suggest a new meeting next spring or summer to make a further attempt to hammer out an agreement on German reunification.

Agreed in Principle

Earlier, French conference sources reported that the four powers had agreed in principle to a recommendation to the U.N. Sub-Committee on Disarmament, but had not yet agreed on the terms. The Western Ministers wanted the conference to make recommendations to the subcommittee, setting out proposed lines for future negotiations on disarmament, but the Soviet Foreign Minister would not agree to this.

Faure Gains Vote On Early Election

PARIS, Saturday (Reuters).—Premier Edgar Faure tonight won approval by 285-247 for his bill for general elections next month in a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. It was the second time in nine days that the Assembly had passed the bill despite fierce opposition by M. Pierre Mendès-France, Faure's predecessor, and his supporters.

First Post-War German Soldiers Begin Service

HONN, Saturday (Reuters).—The first 101 soldiers of the new West German forces officially began their service today. Speaking from a rostrum in front of a huge black wooden replica of an Iron Cross, Defence Minister Theodor Blank told the men: "Your duty is to contribute to securing peace, and increasing preparedness for defence."

JORDAN REJECTS PEACE TALKS

A Jordan Government spokesman yesterday declared that there could be no Arab talks with Israel regarding a peace settlement under the present circumstances. NEAR EAST REPORT.

Syrian papers have commented unfavourably on the British Prime Minister's speech in London on Wednesday, because it failed to satisfy Arab demands.

Nasser: Czech Arms Now Facing Israel

NEW YORK, Saturday (Reuters).—The Egyptian Premier, Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser, told an N.B.C. correspondent in Cairo that Egypt could get further arms from the Soviet bloc if Israel received Western help. The National Broadcasting Company said last night.

France Resumes Sale Of Arms To Egypt

PARIS, Saturday.—The supply of French arms to Egypt, suspended because of anti-French broadcasts from Cairo, is to be resumed, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

The arms deliveries, halted on September 2, were under old contracts and were being resumed following the improvement of Franco-Egyptian relations. He could give no details of the contracts, but it is understood that they include Mystere jet fighters.

Stevenson Urges U.N. Force For Israel-Arab Frontier

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Virginia, Saturday (Reuters).—Patrols by U.N. guards in troubled areas along the Israel-Arab borders were resumed here last night by Mr. Adlai Stevenson, 1953 Democratic candidate for the presidency.

Burns Sees Nasser, Returning Today

CAIRO, Saturday.—Mr. Joseph E. Burns, Chief of Staff of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, conferred for an hour and a half with Premier Abdel Nasser today, and earlier met the Chief of Staff, Gen. Hakim Amer. No details were released regarding the talks.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

Mr. Joseph Burns, the Attorney-General of the State of New York, arrived at Lydda Airport last night on his way to the U.N. to attend the U.N. Security Council meeting on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

West Condemns Israel's Refusal to Yield Territory

Egypt Said Favouring Bernadotte Plan

By ROBERT STEPHENS
Cable to The Jerusalem Post
CAIRO, Saturday (OFN).—Premier Abdel Nasser told this week that the U.N. resolution, including the 1947 partition plan, were still the basis of the Arab case for settlement. He said that the Arab leaders had not so far discussed among themselves any other peace terms, and that the question of the return of territory to the Arabs was the most important because it would also help solve the refugee problem.

He stated that his proposals earlier this year for a demilitarized zone along the Egypt-Israel border still held good. The Egyptians were prepared to put up barbed wire at various points of their side of the border and had no objection to the Israelis erecting a barrier on their side if they thought it necessary. But he would not agree to a fence along the demarcation line itself since his legal advisers said this could be taken as implying recognition of the Armistice line as Israel's frontier.

Eden Guarantee Plan 'Misunderstood'

LONDON, Saturday.—Yesterday's interview between Sir Anthony Eden and Mr. Winthrop Aldrich, the American Ambassador, is semi-officially explained here as due to the latter's desire to obtain clarification of the Prime Minister's reference to the 1949 Arab-Israeli armistice frontier. These are now stated to have been 'misunderstood' abroad, the main implication being that the misunderstanding is the fault of the Israelis.

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Big Three Urge 'Compromise'

GENEVA, Saturday.—The Big Three Western powers agreed tonight to do everything in their power to prevent a Middle East arms race, and authoritative sources said they condemned Israel's refusal to make territorial compromises with the Arab states.

Eden's Suggestions 'Fantastic': Sharet

NEW YORK, Saturday (Reuters).—The Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharet, said yesterday that "there is no justification whatsoever for putting forward such a claim on us," referring to Sir Anthony Eden's call on Wednesday night for "compromise on territorial issues" between Israel and the Arab states.

Mr. Sharet told a press conference here that it was "fantastic" to suggest that Israel should give up part of her territory. Sir Anthony's statement "did not strike me as being constructive or helpful to the cause of peace."

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To judge by the tone of

British official spokes-

men, we might almost be

back in 1947 and the last days

of the Mandate.

BRITAIN when Jews in

SEES TO THIS country

were daily

MEDIATE warned that if

they would not agree to be

subjugated by the Arab

nations they would earn

Britain's extreme disapproval.

It is not so long ago, and the

situation then is remembered

with crystal clarity by Is-

raelis. In 1947 Britain en-

couraged the Arabs not to

accept the U.N. Partition Plan

which Mr. Anthony Eden has

now suggested as a suitable

basis for negotiations, and it

self sabotaged the Plan ac-

tively by withdrawing its ad-

ministration, without any at-

tempt to hand over to the

successor authorities. Had

Britain supported the Plan then

it might have been imple-

mented, though it may well

be doubted today whether a

checkboard six-canton

plan involving the closest

Arab-Jewish cooperation

could have long survived. But

Partition is dead and can no

more be brought back to life

than the many Israelis who

died fighting for their peo-

ple's survival and independ-

ence: men and plan were bur-

ied together after all the bat-

tles of 1947 and 1948, and every

time since then, when Israelis

have fallen victim to Arab

raids, and taught this coun-

try that only strong, rational

borders, and a well equipped

army can secure Israel's free-

dom and future.

But it is not 1947. Israel is

an independent state, a mem-

ber of the United Nations and

recognized by powers, to say

nothing of the fact that it has

a guarantee of its present sta-

tus from Britain, the U.S. and

France. Israel does not con-

sider it has a "dispute" with

the Arab states, except when

these infringe its borders or

blockade its ports; it has no

claims on any Arab state,

except that these should cease

their hostile acts. That is not

a "dispute," but naked one-

sided Arab aggression, against

which Israel has fought and

will continue to fight as the

occasion dictates. One thing

is clear in Israel, if perhaps not

everywhere abroad: Egypt, in

demanding a piece of the Ne-

gev as the price, perhaps, of

a promise that it will re-admit

Britain to the Suez Canal in

the event of war, is not ask-

ing for something it is en-

titled to, or needs, or can use,

but merely attempting political

methods to inflict the mortal

blow upon Israel, which it has

found itself impotent to in-

fect by military means, and

thereby establish its prestige

and leadership in the Arab

world. Nothing can be more

obvious than the fact that

these were Israel, for the sake

of appeasement, to cede Ne-

gev territory to Egypt and

survive the operation, then

Nasser would renew his pres-

sure on a weakened state. He

does not want the Negev, he

has his own desert. He wants

to destroy Israel. This reason

alone would prevent Israel

from entering into any ter-

ritorial negotiations whatever,

regardless of who may press

them. If the borders guaran-

teed in 1949 are no more

valid, it would be at least as

reasonable for Israel to claim

that Egypt never had any

rights to the Gaza Strip, or

Jordan to the Triangle and

the Hebron area, and that if

Israel had had the adminis-

tration of these sections of the

old Palestine, the Arab mig-

nants from Ramle and Jaffa

would not have been left to

rot in refugee camps.

Perhaps Israel has no reason

to expect Britain to fight its

battles, but neither should the

Foreign Office expect that Is-

rael will be easily persuaded

to mend the British fences in

Egypt at its own expense.

Any diplomatic assault on Is-

rael territory will have to be

countered by the nation with

the same steadfast courage

with which border settlers

have faced the nightly threat

and repeated reality of the

Fedayeen attacks.

Karachi Warns Against

Alghan Plane Intrusion

KARACHI, Saturday (UP).—

The Government charged today

that a two-engined Alghan

plane has repeatedly violated

Pakistan territory. The Alghan

Charge d'Affaires was summoned

to the Foreign Ministry this

morning and handed a note of

protest.

He was warned that if "such

violations of Pakistan territory

do not cease forthwith, then

the necessary action will be taken.

New China Needs a Long Period of Peace (Concluding Article) Peking Bent on Consolidation

By DENNIS BLOODWORTH

IN recent months China has

been negotiating with the

"local authorities" in Formosa,

has entered the Sino-American

talks at Geneva with the ex-

pressed hope that they would

lead to a general settlement of

mutual differences, and has re-

leased American airmen and

some civilians detained within

her frontiers. Chou En-lai has

proposed the negotiation of a

mutual security pact for the Pa-

cific area, to include the United

States.

Although in some cases such

moves have been only tactical,

and designed to win allies or

embarrass the enemy in the cold

war, they have certainly con-

tributed to the general lessening

of tension between East and

West and have reflected the more

conciliatory policy of the U.S.S.R.

Quite apart, however, from the

question of collusion between

Peking and Moscow, there are

many reasons why the Chinese

leaders should not wish to risk

a major conflict, preferring for

the present to pursue their aims

by peaceful means. For while

it may be wrong to deride China

as a "paper tiger," she is still,

in terms of military power, no

more than a growing cub.

The current and widespread

"Hu Feng" purge designed to

eliminate those who demand an

immediate improvement in the

standards of living and are op-

posed to the sacrifices required

by the first Five-Year Plan, in-

dicates that drastic measures are

necessary to maintain China's

momentum — and so her equi-

librium — on the road to soci-

alization in times of peace, let

alone war.

Not Much Steel, Coal

In industrial terms, even if the

first Five-Year Plan is success-

fully executed, China will pro-

duce by 1957 little more than

four million tons of steel

and 11,000,000 tons of coal an-

nually for the needs of 600m. people.

She will just have started to

manufacture her first road ve-

hicles. She has only one large

iron and steel combine, at An-

shan; construction has hardly

begun on those projected at Pa-

otow and Wuhan. Railway ex-

penditure has been reduced to

the bare minimum. The most

rudimentary demands of expand-

ing industry and of the con-

sumer. And because modern

industry depends fundamentally on

industrial potential and efficient

communications.

The first two Five-Year Plans

also include a number of major

projects which require that

China remains at peace — the

controlling and harnessing of the

country's great rivers, the ex-

ploitation of raw material re-

sources, notably oil, the expan-

sion of rail and road systems,

and many others besides. Until

these have been executed,

China will be a country of

shortages which the rest of the

world cannot possibly make up.

While ministerial officials

in Peking were anxious to

tell me how well things were

going, they could not possibly

would be easier to write down

the few essential raw materials

and capital goods of which

China has such a long list of

those she lacked.

China has also just embarked

upon a reform of the Army

which involves the demobiliza-

tion of a high percentage of

trained men and the promotion

of large numbers of officers and

N.C.O.s, who must now be fitted

for their new responsibilities. In

the atomic field China is not yet

a starter. She has merely an-

nounced plans for the develop-

ment of atomic energy for peaceful

energy for peaceful purposes.

Chinese international policy,

therefore, must be strongly af-

fected by the knowledge that in

case of conflict Peking would de-

pend on Moscow for her survival.

There have been many indica-

tions in the past that China's

leaders considered themselves

masters of Communist policy in

East Asia and did not intend

to kowtow to the Soviets. For

example, the headquarters of the

Soviet-World Federation of Com-

munist Youth Leagues has been

located in Peking. The Far East

Division of the Soviet Foreign

Ministry has been located in

Peking. The Far Eastern Liaison